

he is coming. The time we know not. Therefore let us watch.

Be ready.—It behoves us, therefore to be ready. For whether Jesus comes before we die, or after, as he finds us we shall be cursed or blessed eternally. The only way to be prepared for him when he comes is to be ready always.

How to Watch.—Not by sitting down and fixing our eyes on the skies, but by doing the work he has committed to us. For if we are doing God's will, we shall be ready.

Peter's Question.—Peter asked, "Do you mean this story for us or for all the people?" Jesus replied, "I mean it for anyone who considers himself a servant and who watches and is prepared for me when I come."

The Reward of Watchfulness.—"Of a truth I say unto you that he will make him ruler over all that he hath." These words of Jesus show what a great reward will be given to the watchful disciple. O, let us each be watchful and ready always to face Christ. Then ours will be the reward eternally.

The Reward of Negligence.—But if that servant, instead of patiently watching, should begin to get weary and say, "My lord is a long time coming, perhaps he will not return; perhaps he will not return for a long time; and begins to beat and abuse his fellow servants, to eat and drink and serve his own selfish pleasure and get drunk, the result will be that his lord will come at a time when the servant has forgotten about his coming and will flog him and give him his place among the untrustworthy servants." With such words did Jesus seek to encourage his disciples to be watchful and faithful. With such warnings did he seek to turn them from carelessness and selfishness. O, the joy of the day of Christ's coming to the faithful! O, the agony and remorse of the day of his coming to those who have been unfaithful to the trust Jesus has reposed in them!

Teacher, you are a servant set to watch. Forget not that Jesus comes. Forget not to be ready to give an account. Disciple, forget not that you should watch and be faithful. Do your humble duties, not as before men, but as one who shall stand in the presence of Christ and answer for opportunities given.

Now, woman out of Christ, forget not that to you Christ has given privileges for the use of which you must answer, a call to confess him before men for which you must give account, opportunities to help others in Christ's name, which if neglected will face you when you stand in the presence of the Judge of all the earth. Forget it not!

Lesson Applied

1 The fact of greatest meaning to the world thus far in history is Christ's coming in the flesh; the next greatest fact will be Christ's coming in his kingdom with glory.

2 The question of profoundest moment to each individual at the time of Christ's first coming was the readiness or unreadiness of each to receive him as the Messiah; the question that will affect our eternal future when Jesus comes again, whether we be alive or dead, will be our readiness or lack of it, to meet and welcome him as our king.

3 When Jesus comes we shall view things in the light of eternity, not in the light of time and of this world.

4 Faithful watching for an event of uncertain date is a test of character which is thorough. Does your soul stand the test? If not train it by prayer. (See Golden Text)

5 In that day we shall prefer to sit down at Christ's table to all the banquets of earthly kings.

6 The one requirement is watchfulness.

7 The only way to be sure that a thief does not surprise you is to watch continually; the only way to be prepared to meet Jesus is to be constantly watching.

8 When you find a man who is lording it over God's children, you can conclude from v. 45 what ails him.

9 No one can watch for you.

10 Watch for Jesus by working for him.

J. L. GILLIN.

Educational

Improve Yourself

Word and Work.

If people only knew the value of time! A half-hour each day steadily given to the vanquishing of some real books in history, science, literature, is three hours a week, is more than twelve hours a month, is more than twelve solid days, of twenty-four hours each, a year. What cannot the busiest person accomplish by such seizure of the fragments of time! Oh, if the young people only knew the culture possible for them by such simple means! And it is always the man who *knows* who gets to be the man who *does*, and to whom the chance for doing comes. Merely frittering away one's leisure—a lifetime devoted only to that, how pitifully sad! No ship drifts into harbor. No young person drifts into achieving manhood or womanhood. Take time for improving yourself!

Temptations of College Life

Record of Christian Work.

It is often said that the temptations of college life are very strong and subtle. This is undoubtedly true. Temptation meets young men in every department of life, and only as a man meets and overcomes temptation does he develop any moral strength. It is useless to attempt to escape temptation anywhere. But while it must be conceded that college life has its own temptations, we deny that they are any more subtle than in business life, and certainly there is no place where a young man is so surrounded with healthful religious influences as in college. Certainly no business house make the best welfare of its employees so great an object of thought as the college does of its students. There are reasons why it is unwise for some men with no definite plan in life to go to college, and there are also other considerations that are against the college course for all, but they cannot be said to be a want of religious influence in the colleges of the present time.

The Words of Jesus

N. D. Hillis, D. D.

Christ's thoughts, injured by translators and marred by copyists, seem like those precious marbles from the hands of Phidias—the very fragments are so beautiful as to evoke the admiration of all the beholders. Nevertheless, his words as quoted by his four biographers represent in form and thought the highest products of genius that the literary art has ever produced. Charles Dickens was the great master of the pathetic style. Yet when the novelist was asked, "What is the most touching story of literature?" he answered, "The story of the prodigal son." Coleridge took all knowledge to his province, and his conversation sparkled with jewels of thought, yet when asked for the richest passage in literature he answered, "The Beatitudes." Edmund Kean was a great actor and artist, but there was one passage so full of tears that he thought no man could properly

render it—the one beginning, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." From the viewpoint of the statesman, Burke said the most impressive political document on the rights of man was the "Sermon on the Mount." It is a striking fact, too, that in all literature the sentence best loved by the children in Christ's "Suffer the children to come unto Me;" the sentence best loved by the aged, "Let not your heart be troubled;" the sentence best loved by men, the one beginning "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." In hours of health and success men may love the majestic pages of Webster or the rhythmic beauty of Ruskin, but in the last hour scholars and statesmen alike exclaim, "Read me the words of Jesus Christ; they alone breathe the language of eternity."

Church News

Maurertown, Va.

During the month of August six were added by baptism and four applicants for church membership. I regret very much that events over which I had no control prevented my presence at National Conference. We trust the work of the meeting will promote the general church interest. E. B. SHAVER

Conemaugh, Pa.

Don't forget the Pennsylvania State Convention which will be held in Conemaugh, Pa., on October 2-4, 1900.

I would urge all the pastors of the various churches of the state to see that delegates are elected and properly credentialed, and also urge upon a good attendance as we want to have the best convention ever held in this state. And the reason I assign for it being the best is to fully demonstrate that we are on the advance in church work and in all that pertains to the making of this world better and for the salvation of souls. Conemaugh is on the P. R. R., and all delegates coming either from the east or west can come over the P. R. R., and all coming over the B. & O., can come to Johnstown and from there they can come up on the Franklin Street Car. The delegates will be met at the depot and street car as often as possible by the committee on entertainment. All delegates and all who will attend will be lodged free, but boarding will cost 25 cents per meal.

J. F. KOONTZ

Fair Haven, Ohio

The church at Fair Haven has not been dead, but in a state of peaceful slumber for the past year. There are however signs of returning activity and we hope for showers of blessings in the near future. Yesterday we held our autumnal business meeting, everything passed off in perfect harmony and in the best of feeling. Among other things we decided by unanimous vote to celebrate holy communion services on Sunday evening, October 7th. And by authority of the church we extend a cordial invitation to the members of Ashland, Homer and Zion Hill churches as well as any other who may find it convenient to be with us on that occasion. Preaching at 10:30 A. M., when we hope some of the brethren from a distance will be on hand and preach for us. Come brethren and help us, we will not arrange special subjects for ourselves and thus forestall any full privilege to you. Come we hope to have an old fashioned gospel love feast, services to open at 7 o'clock. P. J. BROWN.

Congress, Ohio.

Notice From the North

To the Brethren church of Michigan:—Now brethren and sisters, it is only about twenty days until our State Conference. Let each local church see to electing its delegates and preparing its statistics and send them by delegate to conference. Also come prepared to settle up with our treasurer of the mission. Hope all will come prepared to pay full quota. Remember we promised to try to raise one dollar per member for State Missions. We hope the